

1-10 (Withdrawn from consideration per telephone interview of 5 FEB. 2002).

11. (Previously Amended; Allowed) A method of controlling the startup of an electric motor comprising

an associated control circuit including a microprocessor (12), a nonvolatile memory (14), a data bus (13, 15) interconnecting said microprocessor and memory, and an arrangement, coupled to an output of said microprocessor, for limiting the motor current (i),

the method comprising the following steps:

storing, in the nonvolatile memory, a startup time (Ts) via the data bus (13, 15);

switching on the motor and thereafter monitoring the start up time (Ts) of said motor;

during said startup time (Ts), setting, under control of a program running in said microprocessor, a current limiting value (Iref), of the arrangement for limiting the motor current (i), to a first value (Iref = 1);

ascertaining expiration of said startup time (Ts) and thereafter, in a program-controlled manner, setting the current limiting value (Iref) to a second value (Iref = TST) that is different from said first value.

12. (Previously Amended; Allowed) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein

the second current limiting value is less than the first current limiting value.

13. (Presently Amended) The method as defined in claim 11, further comprising

upon expiration of the ~~acceleration~~ startup time ( $T_s$ ), determining whether motor current limiting has been effective during a time span that exceeds a predefined time span; and

if such current limiting has been effective during said time span, changing the current limiting value ( $I_{ref}$ ) in program-controlled fashion to a third value ( $I_{ref} = 0$ ).

14-22 (Withdrawn from consideration per telephone interview of 5 FEB. 2002).

23. (Presently amended) An arrangement comprising an electric motor (10; 10'), adapted for driving a fan (73), a microprocessor (12), for influencing at least one motor function, there being associated with that microprocessor (12) a volatile memory element (330) and a nonvolatile memory element (14), said memory elements being configured for storing at least one object, including data and attribute, as a definition for that motor function;

an interface (13a), associated with the electric motor, for a data line (13; 210, 226) for transferring that at least one object between said microprocessor and a memory element (14, 330), and

a stored directory (280), associated with the microprocessor (12), which contains, for objects that are transferable via the data line (13, 210, 226), predefined parameters (286, 288, 290) for the transfer of those objects.

24. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein  
the stored directory (280) contains data (286) as to the length of transferable objects.

25. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 24, wherein the stored directory (280) contains data (286) as to whether the relevant object is intended for storage in the nonvolatile memory (14) or in a volatile memory element (330).

26. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein  
the stored directory (280) contains data (290) as to the address of the object in a memory element (14, 330).

27. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein  
the stored directory (280) is stored in a nonvolatile and permanent fashion in a memory (336) associated with the microprocessor (12).

28. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 27, wherein  
the stored directory (280) is a hardware component of the microprocessor (12).

29. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein  
the microprocessor (12) is connected to the interface (13a) for the data line (13); and  
the transfer of objects from and/or to the nonvolatile memory element (14) is accomplished via the microprocessor (12).

30. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein

the data line is a serial data bus (213, 210, 226).

31. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein

at least one buffer memory (332) for data traffic with a data line (13; 15) is provided in the volatile memory associated with the microprocessor (12).

32. (Previously Amended) The arrangement as defined in claim 23, wherein

the nonvolatile memory element (14) is connected to the microprocessor (12) via a line (CS) which, controlled by the microprocessor (12) influences a write protection of the nonvolatile memory element (14).

33-40. (Withdrawn from consideration per telephone interview of 5 FEB. 2002).

41. (Withdrawn from consideration per telephone interview of 5 FEB. 2002) The arrangement as defined in claim 9, comprising

a nonvolatile memory element (14) serving to store at least one time value (Ts) after whose expiration a switchover of said output (A) of the microprocessor (12) is accomplished in program-controlled fashion.

42. (Previously added) A fan system, comprising  
a fan including an electric motor (10)  
whose speed is dependent on a commutation signal supplied  
thereto;

a writable memory (14) integral with the fan and containing  
fan control information;

a microcontroller integral with, and which outputs a  
commutation signal to, the electric motor of said fan, in  
accordance with control information stored in the writeable  
memory (14);

a host computer (11); and

an interface (13) between the host computer (11) and the  
microcontroller (12);

the host computer providing different control information to  
the memory (14) via the interface (13) when said microcontroller  
(12) outputs different commutation signals in accordance with the  
control information currently stored in the memory (14) and  
supplied thereto by the host computer (11).

43. (Previously added) The fan system of claim 42, further  
including a temperature sensor linked to the host computer.

44. (Previously added) The fan system of claim 42 in which  
the control information provided to the memory is rpm data.

45. (Previously added) The fan system of claim 42, in  
which the control information provided to the memory is startup  
current information.

46. (Previously added) The fan system of claim 42 in which

the interface (13) is a serial interface.

47. (Previously Amended) The fan system of claim 42, in which

the microcontroller (12) controls the commutation of said electric motor (10) and the transfer of fan control information between said writeable memory (14) and said host computer (11), whereby said host computer is capable of being dynamically and continuously interfaced with the fan.